REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 11 and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stelljes (U.S.P. 1,702,621 - hereinafter Stelljes '621) in view of U.S. Patent Publication 2003/0090114 to Kang (hereinafter Kang '114); and Claims 11, 18 and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 1,590,400 to Widmer (hereinafter Widmer '400) in view of Kang '114. New Claim 20 has been added and thus, Claims 11 and 18-20 remain active.

Considering first then the rejection of Claims 11 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stelljes '621 in view of Kang '114, Applicant notes that Stelljes '621 teaches providing means for retaining a release plunger 18 in a depressed position when a bag is in an open condition, allowing it to rise only after catches 15 have fully entered into a lock casing 22 and are in position to become engaged therein, thereby avoiding excessive and unnecessary movement by which wear is incurred (cf. lines 17-25 of page 1 and Figs. 1 to 3).

The lock of this reference for a handbag is configured such that the catches 15 formed on a frame element 13 are inserted into openings 25 formed through the front wall of the lock casing 22 formed on a frame element 14 and that the cam faces of keeper detents 26 are engaged with catch openings 16 (cf. lines 83-86 of page 1 and Figs. 1 to 3).

The Examiner has pointed out that "Stelljes '621 discloses Applicant's claim limitations including: an 'engaging piece'-15 'fixed on a lid'-11,10 as shown in Fig 1, a 'latch mechanism'- particularly including 26, 'fixed on a main body of the bag' - 14,10." (cf. item 2 in the Official Action). Furthermore, in the same Office Action, the Examiner points out that "It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

invention to provide part 15 of Stelljes '621 with a synthetic resin coating as taught by Kang '114 for noise damping as suggested by Kang '114".

Applicants submit that if part 15 of Stelljes '621 were provided with a synthetic resin coating for noise damping as suggested by Kang '114, the above-noted object of Stelljes '621 would not be able to be attained.

More particularly, in the case of coating the catches 15 in Figure 1 of Stelljes '621 with the noise damping materials (19) made of synthetic resin as taught by Kang '114, it would be necessary to widen the openings 25 of Stelljes '621 as shown in the attached explanatory drawing I-1 shown in Attachment A. In that case, so as to make the pair of catches 15 secured rigidly on the inner side of the frame element 13 through the cam faces of keeper detents 26 of Stelljes '621 entering the openings 16, it would be necessary to form the widths of the keeper detents 26 more narrowly and to form the heights of the keeper detents 26 more highly as shown in the attached explanatory drawing I-2 in Attachment A. Furthermore, it would be necessary to depress the plunger 18 more deeply in order to release the catches 15 from the keeper detents 26 (in lines 4-10 of page 2 of Stelljes '621).

Thus, in the case of the catches 15 of Stelljes '621 provided with synthetic resin coatings for noise damping as suggested by Kang '114, while the frame covers 11 and 12 are in closed position relative to each other, the coatings of the synthetic resin formed on the catches 15 come into contact continuously with the inside walls of the keeper detents 26 and lock casing 22. Therefore, the coatings of synthetic resin formed on the catches 15 of Stelljes '621 would become worn away fairly quickly. In this case, as the coatings of synthetic resin formed on the catches 15 are worn away more, the catch openings 16 would expand more as shown in attached explanatory drawings I-3 and I-4. Thereby, the clearances between the keeper detents 26 and the insides of the catches 15 would come to expand more, so the

engagements of the keeper detents 26 into the catch openings 16 would become loose. Accordingly, it would be difficult to retain the bag sides in a closed position.

Kang '114 discloses a striker in which a latching loop 15 is coated with a noise damping material 19 (in paragraph [0038] and in FIG. 1), and the noise damping material 19 is made of synthetic resin (cf. paragraph [0041]).

Furthermore, the noise damping material 19 of this citation is substantially uniformly coated on the U-shaped latching loop 15 excluding the part thereof in the vicinity of the bracket 11. Due to the application of noise damping material 19 as taught by Kang '114 to the catches 15 of Stelljes '621, most of the surfaces of the catches 15 are prevented from directly touching the inside walls of the keeper detents 26 and lock casing 22, so there is no noise generated from the catches 15 and the keeper detents 26 at the time of closing the bag sides (cf. paragraph [0041]). However, in the case of catches 15 of Stelljes '621 provided with synthetic resin coatings for noise damping as suggested by Kang '114, as stated above, it is necessary to depress the plunger 18 excessively in order to release the catches 15 from the keeper detents 26, so the coatings of synthetic resin formed on the catches 15 of Stelljes '621 come to be worn away fairly by this operation of the plunger 18. And it is difficult to retain the bag sides in closed position through the abrasion of the coatings of synthetic resin on the catches 15.

On the other hand, in the present invention, the member (15) for preventing damage is provided on the only part of the surface of the engaging piece (12) that collides on the latch member (19) and isn't provided on any part of the surface of the engaging piece (12) that doesn't collide on the latch member (19).

According to this invention, it isn't necessary to widen the depressed part (21) for admitting the engaging piece (12). Also in the present invention, the member (15) for preventing infliction of injury isn't provided on the engaging ring (18), so the latch member

(19) is received in the engaging ring (18) without interfering with the member (15) for preventing infliction of injury. Therefore, even if the member (15) for preventing infliction of injury is provided on the surface of the engaging piece (12), there is no problem in opening and closing the bag. Even if the member (15) for preventing infliction of injury is abraded entirely, the clearance between the engaging ring (18) and the latch member (19) isn't influenced as shown in the attached explanatory drawings II-1 and II-2 in Attachment A. With regard to the above technical points, the fastener of this invention is very different from the case of the application of noise damping material 19 as taught by Kang '114 to the catches 15 of Stelljes '621.

In the present invention, therefore, it is made possible to keep the metal surface (28) of the latch mechanism beautiful without deteriorating the function the fastener for a bag naturally has.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that Claims 11 and 19 clearly patentably define over the above-noted references as well as the remaining references of record.

Considering next then the rejection of Claims 11, 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Widmer '400 in view of Kang '114, Applicant notes that Widmer '400 aims to provide a simple spring fastener which will permanently hold the flap of the container in a closed position unless it is positively opened (in lines 5-9 of page 1 of Widmer '400).

In use of the fastener disclosed in Widmer '400, the tab is pushed under the bridge 9 which is attached to the body of the pouch 10. The shoulder 11 on the shoulder plate 5 engages under the influence of its spring 8 with the bridge 9, thus holding the flap in position until the shoulder plate 5 is positively pressed down to release the tab (in lines 54-61 of page 1 and Figs. 1 and 2 of Widmer '400).

The Examiner has pointed out that "Widmer '400 discloses Applicants claim limitations including: an 'engaging piece'- including 5, 'fixed on a lid'- as shown in Fig 1, a 'latch mechanism' - particularly including 9, 'fixed on a main body portion of the bag' – as shown."(see item 3 in the Official Action). However, when the bridge 9 of Widmer '400 is provided with a synthetic resin coating as taught by Kang '114 for noise damping as suggested by Kang '114, it may be concluded that the above object of Widmer '400 will not be able to be attained.

As shown in the explanatory drawing III-1, in the case of coating the bridge 9 of Widmer '400 with the noise damping materials (19) made of synthetic resin as taught by Kang '114, it is necessary to form the height of the clearance (h) of the bridge 9 more highly as shown in the attached explanatory drawing III -2 so as to make the shoulder 11 secured rigidly with the bridge 9. Furthermore, it is necessary to depress the shoulder plate 5 more deeply in order to release the tab from the bridge 9.

Thus, in the case of the bridge 9 of Widmer '400 provided with synthetic resin coatings for noise damping as suggested by Kang '114, both at the time of opening the flap 3 and at the time of closing the flap 3 of the pouch 10, the synthetic resin formed on the bridge 9 comes into contact with the shoulder plate 5. Therefore, the coatings of synthetic resin formed on the bridge 9 come to be worn away fairly quickly. In this case, as the coatings of synthetic resin formed on the bridge 9 are worn away more, the height (w) of the part of the bridge 9 which the shoulder 11 contacts comes to be less and the clearance (h) between the bridge 9 and the underplate 1 expands more as shown in the attached explanatory drawing III-3. Thereby, the fixing of the shoulder 11 to the bridge 9 comes to be loose. Accordingly, it is difficult to retain the pouch 1 in closed position.

As stated above, the present invention clearly differs in object and configuration from Stelljes, Kang and Widmer and the effects thereof cannot be obtained from these citations. In

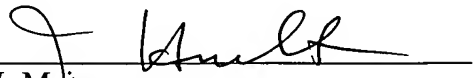
addition, there is no description either disclosing or suggesting the configuration of the present invention in these citations.

Insofar as Widmer '400 fails to rectify the above-noted deficiencies regarding the prior art mentioned above and in view of the limitations set forth in each of Claims 11, 18 and 19 as well as new Claim 20, it is submitted that each of Claims 11 and 18-20 merit indication of allowability with the same being hereby respectfully requested.

Applicants further note that a communication under Rule 51(4) EPC has been received by Applicants from the European Patent Office, a copy of which is enclosed as Attachment B which indicates that the European Patent Office is now prepared to allow the corresponding European Patent Application No. 04250275.7. In this regard, it is noted that Claims 11 and 20 of the present application correspond to Claim 1 of the European Patent Application, which the European Patent Office is now proposing for allowance. In view of this and in view of the above-noted arguments in support of the patentability of Claims 11-20 as well as dependent Claims 18 and 19, it is submitted that each of Claims 11 and 18-20 now merit indication of allowability with the same being hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



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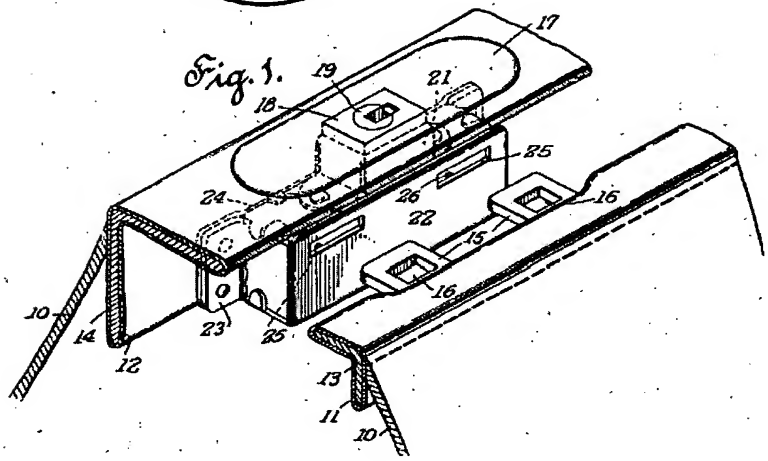
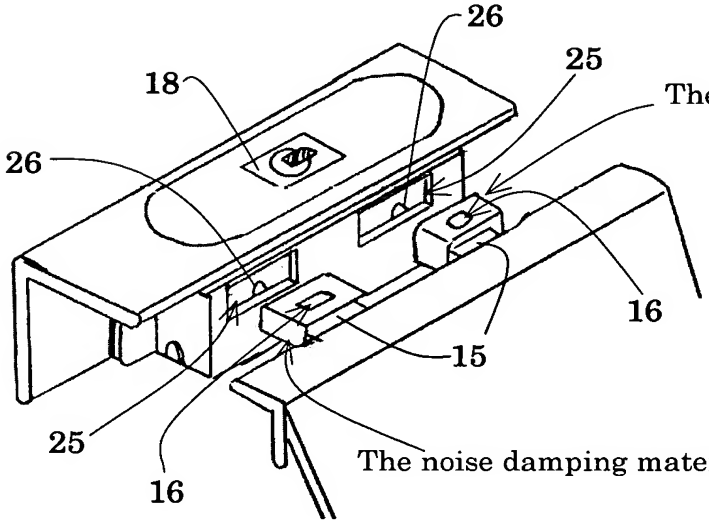


Figure 1 of Stelljes



Explanatory drawing I -1

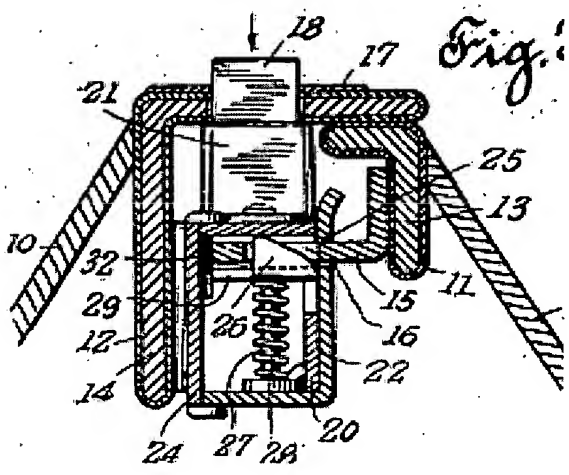
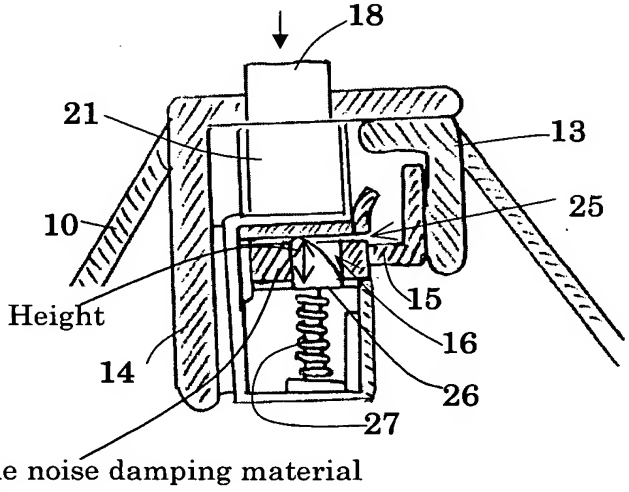
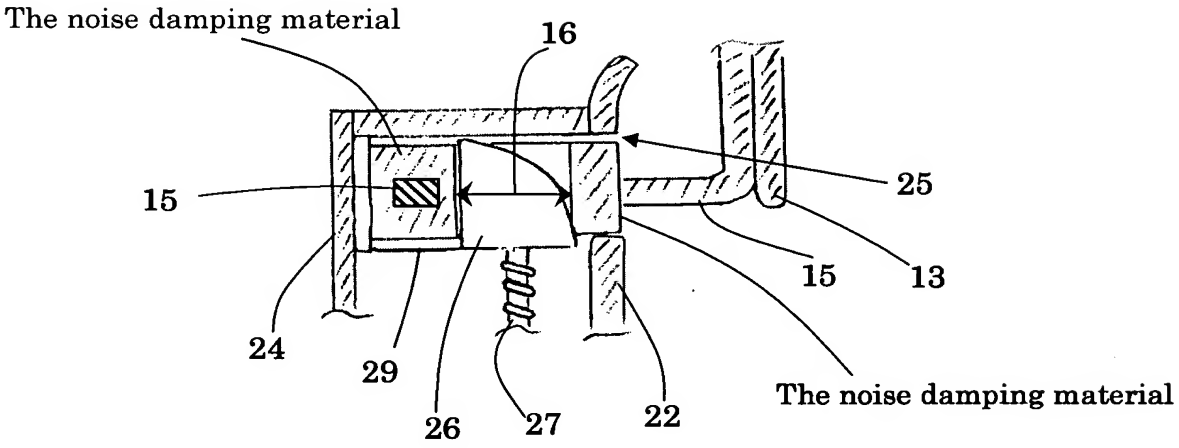


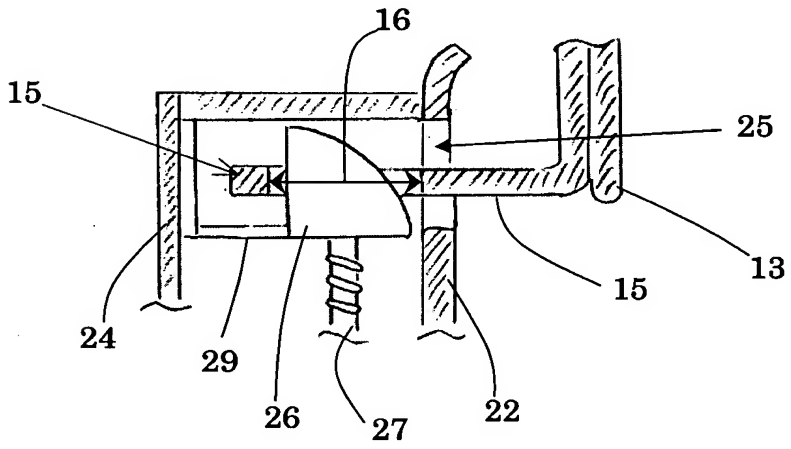
Figure 3 of Stelljes



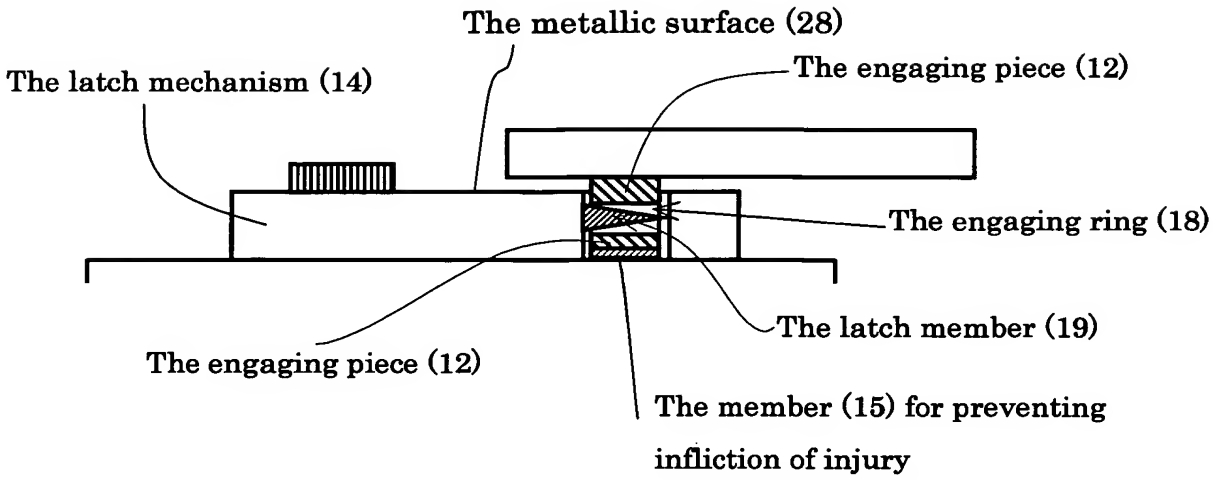
Explanatory drawing I -2



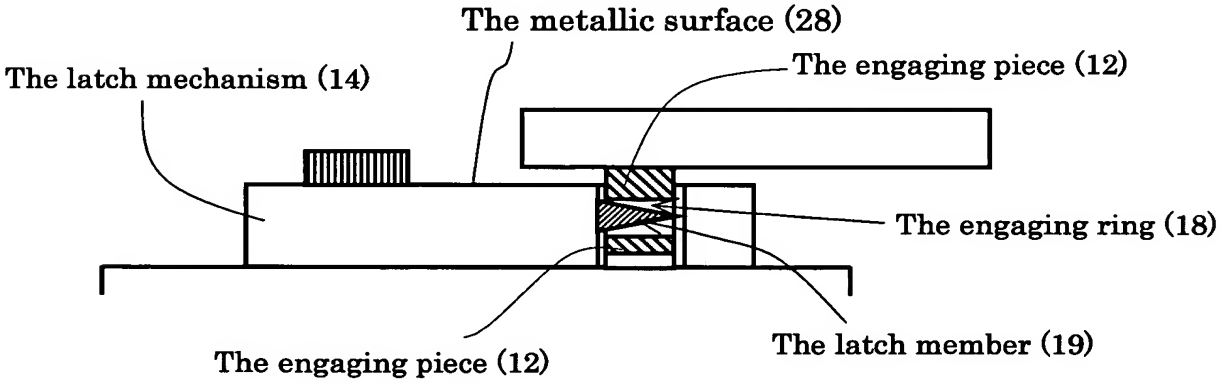
Explanatory drawing I -3



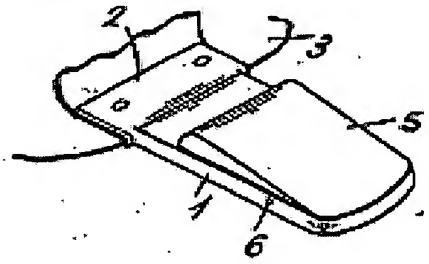
Explanatory drawing I -4

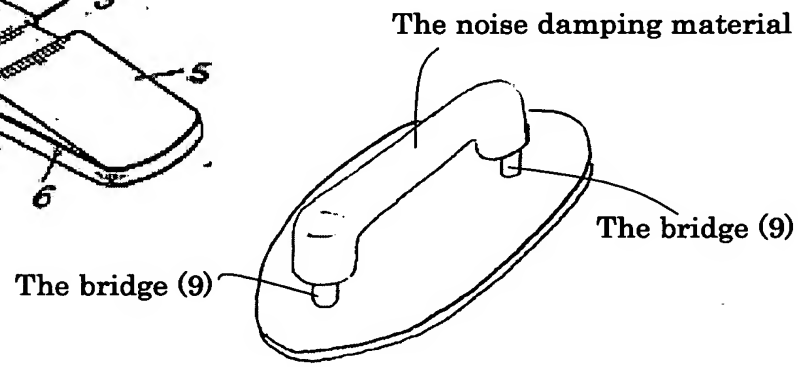


Explanatory drawing Ⅱ-1

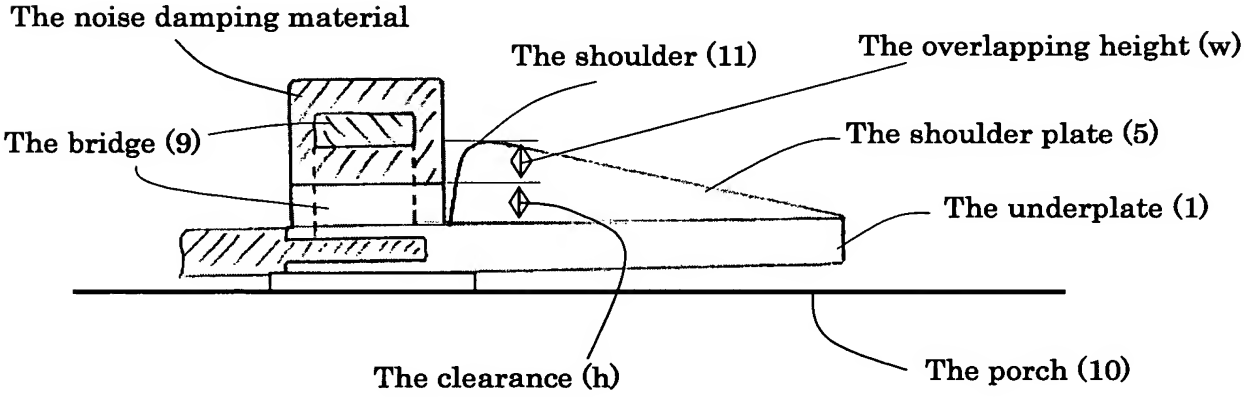


Explanatory drawing Ⅱ-2

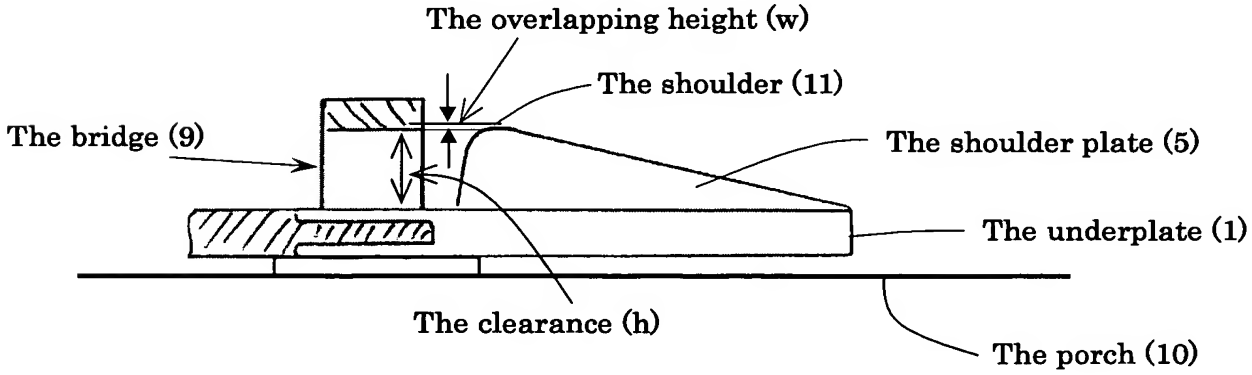




Explanatory drawing Ⅲ-1



Explanatory drawing Ⅲ-2



Explanatory drawing Ⅲ-3

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Application No.	Ref.	Date
04 250 275.7 - 1258	NIS/DC/41458	20.11.2007
Applicant: Daito Company Limited		

Communication under Rule 51(4) EPC

You are informed that the Examining Division intends to grant a European patent on the basis of the above application with the text and drawings as indicated below:

In the text for the Contracting States:
AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HU IE IT LI LU MC NL PT RO SE SI SK TR

Description, Pages

1-6 filed with telefax on 20.07.2006

Claims, Numbers

1-7 filed with telefax on 20.07.2006

Drawings, Sheets

1/3-3/3 as originally filed

With the following amendments to the above-mentioned documents by the examining division

Description, Pages 1*, 4
Claims, Numbers 5,6**

Comments

* Rule 27 (1) (b) EPC
** Art. 84 EPC

Registered Letter
EPO Form 2004 01.06CSX

A copy of relevant documents is enclosed

The title of the invention in the three official languages of the European Patent Office, the international patent classification, the designated Contracting States, the registered name of the applicant and the bibliographic data are shown on the attached EPO Form 2056.

You are requested within a **non-extendable** period of four months of notification of this communication

1. to file 1 set of translations of the claim(s) in the two other EPO official languages;

		EUR
2a.	to pay the fee for grant including the fee for printing up to and including 35 pages; Reference 007	750.00
2b.	to pay the printing fee for the 36th and each additional page; number of pages: 0 Reference 008	0.00
3.	to pay the additional claim fee(s) (Rule 51(7) EPC); number of claims fees payable: 0 Reference 016	0.00
	Total amount	750.00

Concerning the possibility of a request for accelerated grant pursuant to Article 97(6) EPC, reference is made to OJ EPO 2001, 459.

If you do not approve the text intended for grant but wish to request amendments or corrections, the procedure described in Rule 51(5) EPC is to be followed.

If this communication is based upon an auxiliary request, and you reply within the time limit set that you maintain the main or a higher ranking request which is not allowable, the application will be refused (Article 97(1) EPC, see also Legal Advice 15/05 (rev. 02), OJ 6/2005, 357).

If the enclosed claims contain amendments proposed by the Examining Division, and you reply within the time limit set that you cannot accept these amendments, refusal of the application under Article 97(1) EPC would result in the case that agreement cannot be reached on the text for grant.

In all cases except those of the previous two paragraphs, if the grant, printing or claims fees are not paid, or the translations not filed, in due time, the European patent application will be deemed to be withdrawn (Rule 51(8) EPC).

For all payments you are requested to use EPO Form 1010 or to refer to the relevant reference number.

After publication, the European patent specification can be downloaded free of charge from the EPO publication server https://publications.european-patent-office.org or ordered only from the Vienna sub-office upon payment of a fee (OJ EPO 2005, 126).

Upon request in writing each proprietor will receive the certificate for the European patent **together with one copy** of the patent specification only if the request is filed within the time limit of Rule 51(4) EPC. If such request has been previously filed, it has to be confirmed within the time limit of Rule 51(4) EPC. The requested copy is free of charge. If the request is filed after expiry of the Rule 51(4) EPC time limit, the certificate will be delivered without a copy of the patent specification.

Translation of the priority document(s)

If the translation of the priority document(s), as required by Article 88(1) EPC, or the declaration according to Rule 38(5) EPC has not yet been filed, Form 2530 will be despatched separately. The translation is to be filed within the above mentioned time limit (Rule 38(5) EPC).

Note on payment of renewal fees

If a renewal fee falls due between notification of the present communication and the proposed date of publication of the mention of the grant of the European patent, publication will be effected only after the renewal fee and any additional fee have been paid (Rule 51(9) EPC).

Under Article 86(4) EPC, renewal fees are payable to the European Patent Office until the year in which the mention of the grant of the European patent is published.

Filing of translations in the Contracting States

Pursuant to Article 65(1) EPC the following Contracting States require a translation of the specification of the European patent in their/one of their official language(s) (Rule 51(10) EPC), **insofar** this specification will not be published in their/one of their official language(s)

- within **three** months of publication of the mention of such decision:

AT	AUSTRIA	GB	UNITED KINGDOM
BE	BELGIUM	GR	GREECE
BG	BULGARIA	HU	HUNGARY
CH	SWITZERLAND / LIECHTENSTEIN	IT	ITALY
CY	CYPRUS	NL	NETHERLANDS
CZ	CZECH REPUBLIC	PT	PORTUGAL
DE	GERMANY	RO	ROMANIA
DK	DENMARK	SE	SWEDEN
EE	ESTONIA	SI	SLOVENIA
ES	SPAIN	SK	SLOVAKIA
FI	FINLAND	TR	TURKEY
FR	FRANCE		

- within **six** months of publication of the mention of such decision:

IE IRELAND

The date on which the European Patent Bulletin publishes the mention of the grant of the European patent will be indicated in the decision on the grant of the European patent (EPO Form 2006).

The translation must be filed with the national Patent Offices of the Contracting or Extension States in accordance with the provisions applying thereto in the State concerned. Further details (e.g. appointment of a national representative or indication of an address for service within the country) are given in the EPO information brochure "National law relating to the EPC", and in the supplementary information published in the Official Journal of the EPO, or available on the EPO website.

Failure to supply such translation to the Contracting and Extension States in time and in accordance with the requirements may result in the patent being deemed to be void ab initio in the State concerned.

Note to users of the automatic debiting procedure

Unless the EPO receives prior instructions to the contrary, the fee(s) will be debited on the last day of the period of payment. For further details see the Arrangements for the automatic debiting procedure (see Supplement to OJ EPO 2, 2002).

Examining Division:

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2nd Examiner:	Coniglio, Carlo
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Enclosure(s): Form 2056
11 Copies of the relevant documents

Registered Letter
EPO Form 2004 01.06CSX

Annex to EPO Form 2004, Communication under Rule 51(4) EPC

Bibliographical data of European patent application No. 04 250 275.7

For the intended grant of a European patent, the bibliographical data are set out below, for information:

Title of invention:	- Taschenverschluss - Fastener for bag - Serrure pour un sac
Classification:	INV. A45C13/10 E05B65/50
Date of filing:	20.01.2004
Priority claimed:	JP / 07.02.2003 / JPA2003030284
Contracting States* for which fees have been paid:	AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HU IE IT LI LU MC NL PT RO SE SI SK TR
Extension States* for which fees have been paid:	
Applicant(s):**	Daito Company Limited 3-4-3, Sekiguchi Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo JP
Inventor(s):	Kihara, Minoru 1-18-15 Nishigaoka Kita-ku Tokyo JP

*)	In case the time limits pursuant to Article 79(2) and Rule 85a EPC have not yet expired, **all Contracting States/Extension States** have been mentioned.
**)	In case two or more applicants have designated different Contracting States, this is indicated here.

~~Fastener for Bag~~

This invention relates to a fastener for briefcases, bags, etc. and more particularly to a fastener for bags which prevents an engaging piece on the lid side thereof from inflicting a scar or a dent on a latch mechanism on the main body side thereof as a consequence of collision between the engaging piece and the latch mechanism while the fastener is in the process of being opened and closed.

Heretofore, it has been proposed to have the surface of a fitting for a women's handbag coated and formed with nitride or carbide of titanium (Ti) as disclosed in Japanese Utility Model Registration No. 3038616. It has been customary to produce this fitting by evaporating titanium in accordance with a method of physical vacuum deposition on a metallic fitting molded in advance in a shape proper for the function expected to be discharged so as to enable the produced fitting to excel in corrosion resistance and wear resistance.

Since the fitting has a thin coating layer of titanium, however, it has been at a disadvantage in being easily injured and eventually peeled when the metal used as the body material thereof is deficient in hardness. It has further suffered from the defect of incurring a high production cost because it requires the whole surface thereof to be coated with titanium by ionic plating. The fitting as a finished product has not been allowed to assume any color arbitrarily chosen.

This invention has been proposed in view of the true state of affairs mentioned above and is aimed at providing a fastener for bags which exhibits an excellent ability to resist infliction of injury.

According to the first aspect of the present invention there is provided a fastener for bags, comprising an engaging piece fixed on a lid side of a bag and a latch mechanism comprising a metallic surface and a latch member, wherein the latch mechanism is fixed on a main body side of the bag and adapted to admit the engaging piece detachably, and characterised in that part of the engaging piece which is provided with an engaging ring for admitting the latch member and fated to collide against the metallic surface is clad with a member of synthetic resin for preventing infliction of injury to the metallic surface.

① A fastener for briefcases is also described in JP 08333939A.

At least part of the engaging piece may be coated with synthetic resin, or at least part of the engaging piece have synthetic resin adhere thereto, or at least part of the engaging piece have synthetic resin fitted therein, or the engaging piece and a synthetic resin piece be joined fast with a cementing member.

Since the fastener for briefcases, bags, etc. embodying this invention has part of the engaging piece coated with a member for preventing infliction of injury, the metallic surface against which the engaging piece is fated to collide while the lid of a briefcase, bag, etc. is in the process of being opened and closed has no possibility of sustaining a scar or a dent. The surface of the fastener for the briefcases, bags, etc., therefore, can always be kept beautifully.

Furthermore, since the engaging piece of the fastener for bags, etc. embodying this invention is furnished with an engaging ring for taking in the latch member of the latch mechanism, it is not required to be provided with a projecting part and, therefore, has no possibility of inflicting a scar on the metallic surface.

Embodiments of the present invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of essential part illustrating one embodiment of a fastener for bags, etc.

Figure 2 is a side view of the essential part of the fastener for bags, etc. which is shown in Figure 1,

Figure 3 is a perspective view illustrating the first embodiment of the engaging piece to be used in the fastener for bags, etc,

Figure 4 is a perspective view illustrating the second embodiment of the engaging piece to be used in the fastener for bags, etc,

Figure 5 is a perspective view illustrating the third embodiment of the engaging piece to be used in the fastener for bags, etc,

Figure 6 is a front view illustrating the fourth embodiment of the engaging piece to be used in the fastener for bags, etc, and

Figure 7 is a longitudinal section illustrating the fifth embodiment of the engaging piece to be used in the fastener for bags, etc.

One embodiment of the fastener for bags, etc. will be described in detail below with reference to the attached drawing. Figures 1 and 2 illustrate one embodiment of the fastener for bags, etc. A fastener 10 is for bags, etc. and comprises an engaging piece 12 fixed on a lid side 11 of a bag and a latch mechanism 14 fixed on a main body side 13 of the bag and adapted to admit therein the engaging piece 12 detachably, with part of the engaging piece 12 clad with a member 15 for preventing infliction of scar.

In the present embodiment, the engaging piece 12 is fixed substantially at a right angle as directed toward the main body side 13 to the distal end side of a holding member 17 fixed with screws 16 to the end face of a lid side 11. Furthermore, in this embodiment, the engaging piece 12 is provided with an engaging ring 18 for taking in a latch member 19 of the latch mechanism 14. Optionally, the engaging piece may be in a form devoid of the engaging ring 18. The latch member 19 is resiliently energized with a spring mechanism (not shown) so as to be thrust into a depressed part 21 of the latch mechanism 14 for admitting the engaging piece 12 and is adapted to be retracted against the spring by the manipulation of a knob 20 of the latch mechanism 20.

The member 15 for preventing infliction of injury is formed through coating the surface of the engaging piece 12 with a layer of synthetic resin in a prescribed thickness as illustrated in Figure 3. The surface for this coating comprises a surface

15a fated to collide against the latch mechanism 14, a surface 15b continuing thereto, and opposite lateral surfaces 15c. As concrete examples of the synthetic resin to be used advantageously for this coating, polyethylene, nylon, saponified EVA, epoxy, polyester, fluorine resin, PTFE, FEP, and PFA may be cited.

When the fastener is constructed as described above, since the surface of the engaging piece 12 colliding against the latch mechanism 14 is coated with the layer of synthetic resin, a metallic surface 28 of the latch mechanism 14 cannot be injured but can always be kept beautiful.

Figure 4 is a perspective view illustrating the second embodiment of the engaging piece to be used in the fastener for bags according to this invention. In this embodiment, the member 15 for preventing infliction of injury is a piece of synthetic resin 22 applied fast to the surface in part of the engaging piece 12 confronting the latch mechanism 14 by means of adhesion. The synthetic resin used herein may be any of the synthetic resins enumerated above by way of illustration.

When the fastener is thus constructed, since the surface of the engaging piece 12 colliding against the latch mechanism 14 is formed of the synthetic resin; the metallic surface 28 of the latch mechanism 14 cannot sustain a scratch or an injury but can always be kept beautiful.

Figure 5 is a perspective view illustrating the third embodiment of the engaging piece to be used in the fastener for bags, etc. In the present embodiment, a dovetail groove 14 formed in part of the engaging piece 12 and a projection 25 provided on a piece of synthetic resin 26 and adapted to conform to the dovetail groove 24 are joined by means of insertion-setting.

When the fastener is constructed as described above, the dovetail groove 24 enables the piece of synthetic resin 26 to be fixed infallibly to the engaging piece 12. Thus, the piece of synthetic resin can be prevented from accidental fall.

Figure 6 is a front view illustrating the fourth embodiment of the engaging piece to be used in the fastener for bags, etc. In this embodiment, the member 15 for preventing infliction of injury is formed through insertion of screws 27 made of synthetic resin into part of the engaging piece 12. In the present embodiment, insertion of two screws is depicted. The number of screws to be used for the insertion does not need to be limited to two but may be changed to one or to three or more as occasion demands.

When the fastener is thus constructed, a simple structure suffices to prevent the opposed metallic pieces from colliding with each other and sustaining injuries.

Figure 7 is a longitudinal section illustrating the fifth embodiment of the engaging piece to be used in the fastener for bags. In the present embodiment, the member 15 for preventing infliction of injury relies on fixing pins (joining members) 23 erected in part of the engaging piece 12 to fix the piece of synthetic resin 22. The synthetic resin to be used herein may be any of the synthetic resins enumerated above.

When the fastener is constructed as described above, since the piece of synthetic resin 22 is fixed with the fixing pin 23, the piece of synthetic resin can be fixed more infallibly. The otherwise possible fall of the piece of synthetic resin due to a shock, therefore, can be precluded.

Embodiments of the invention have been described above. Since it has part of the engaging piece clad with a member for preventing infliction of injury, the metallic surface of the latch mechanism that is destined to collide against the engaging piece when the lid of the bag is in the process of being opened and closed cannot be injured or dented. The metallic surface of the latch mechanism, therefore, can always be kept beautiful.

The engaging piece of the fastener is provided with the engaging ring for admitting the latch member of the latch mechanism. Since the engaging piece is no longer required to be provided with a projecting part, therefore, the possibility of the

engaging piece inflicting injury on the metallic surface of the latch mechanism is remote. Furthermore, since the member for preventing infliction of injury has the synthetic resin fastened to the engaging piece by means of application, adhesion, or insertion-setting, the opposed metallic pieces are not suffered to collide against each other and the metallic surface of the latch mechanism is not injured.

Claims:

1. A fastener (10) for bags, comprising an engaging piece (12) fixed on a lid (11) side of a bag and a latch mechanism (14) comprising a metallic surface and a latch member (19), wherein the latch mechanism is fixed on a main body (13) side of the bag and adapted to admit the engaging piece (12) detachably, and characterised in that part of the engaging piece (12) which is provided with an engaging ring (18) for admitting the latch member and fated to collide against the metallic surface is clad with a member (15) of synthetic resin for preventing infliction of injury of the metallic surface.

2. A fastener according to claim 1, wherein the member for preventing infliction of injury comprises a layer of synthetic resin fastened by means of coating to the surface of the engaging piece fated to collide against the latch mechanism.

3. A fastener according to claim 1, wherein the member for preventing infliction of injury comprises a piece of synthetic resin fastened by means of adhesion to the surface of the engaging piece fated to collide against the latch mechanism.

4. A fastener according to claim 1, wherein the member for preventing infliction of injury comprises a piece of synthetic resin fastened to part of the engaging piece by means of insertion-setting (24, 25).

5. A fastener according to claim 1, wherein the member for preventing infliction of injury comprises a piece of synthetic resin piece joined to the engaging piece through a joining member (27 ~~or~~ 23).

6. A fastener according to claim 1, wherein the member (15) for preventing infliction of injury is formed ~~through a projection (25) provided on~~ a piece of synthetic resin (26) ~~and~~ adapted to conform to a dovetail groove (24) formed in part of the engaging piece (12) and wherein the projection and dovetail groove are jointed by means of insertion-setting.

① having a projection (25)

7. A fastener according to claim 1, wherein the member (15) for preventing infliction of injury is formed through insertion of screws (27) made of synthetic resin into part of the engaging piece.

DRUCKEXEMPLAR

FIG. 1

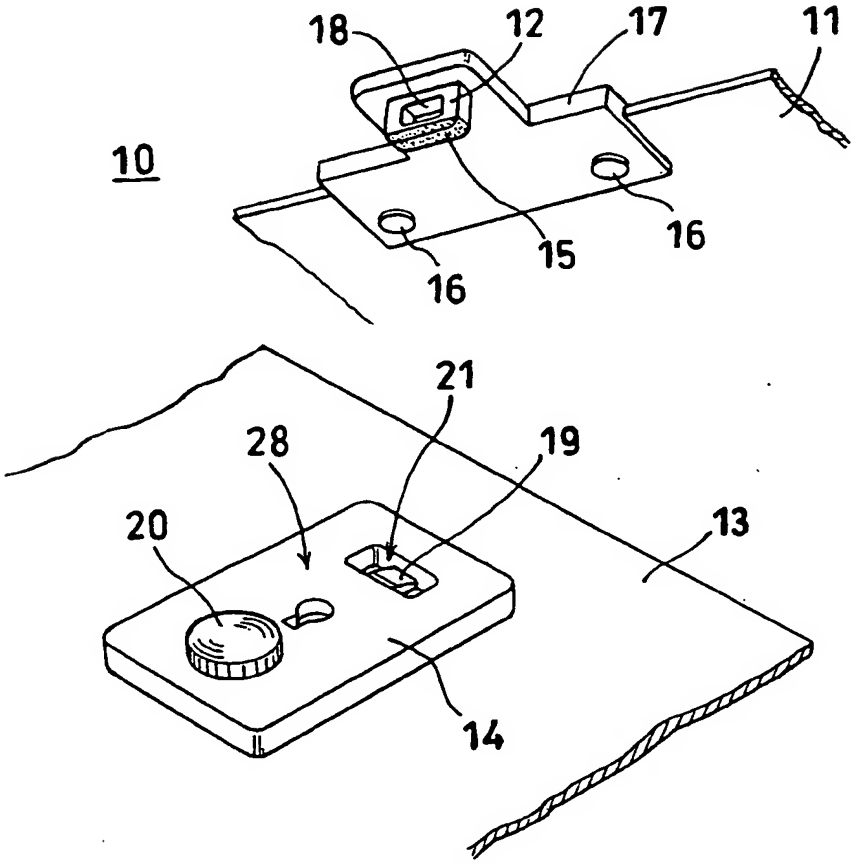

FIG. 2

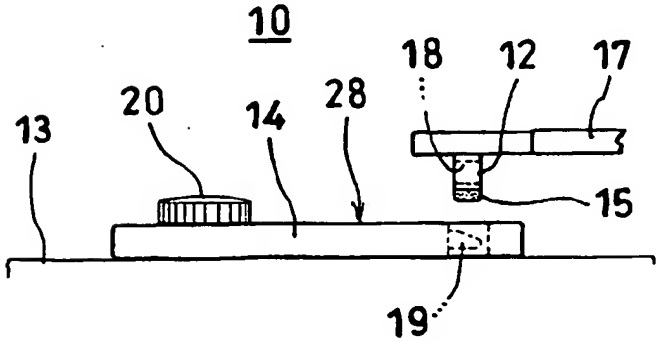

FIG. 3

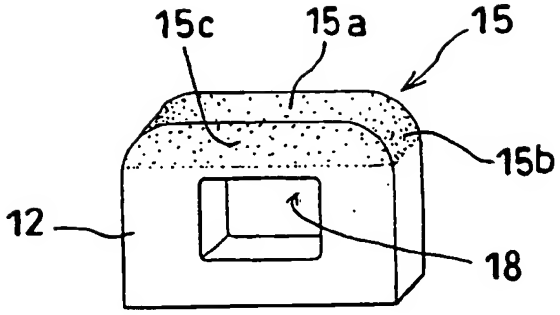

FIG. 4

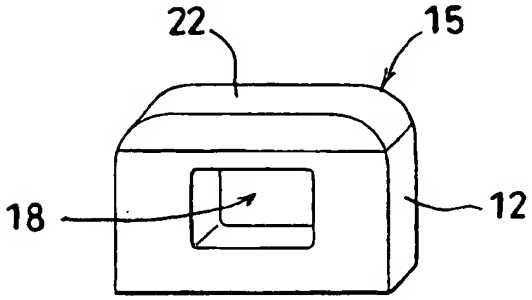

FIG. 5

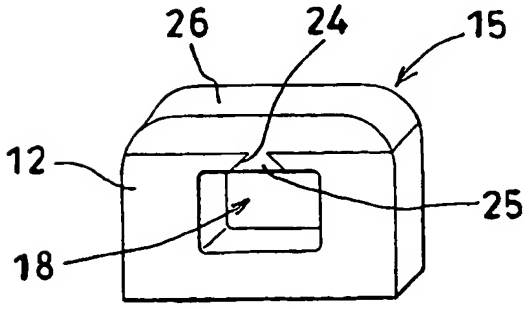

FIG. 6

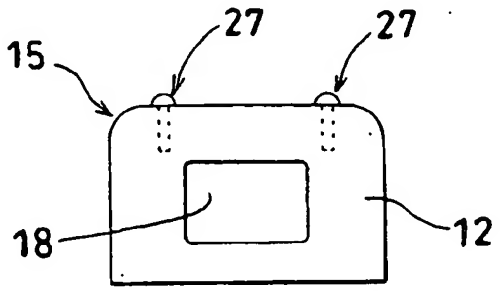

FIG. 7